

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-05 SSM-03 ACDA-07 OMB-01

/100 W

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R 241116Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7809

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 3234

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE

SUBJECT: BAATH PARTY OFFICIAL ADDRESSES OPEN LETTER TO
LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER

1. SUMMARY: BAATH PARTY REGIONAL COMMAND MEMBER IN MAY 20
AL-BAATH ADDRESSED OPEN LETTER TO LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY
(CPL) IN WHICH SYRIA'S LEFTIST CREDENTIALS DEFENDED, JORDAN
CRITICIZED, SINAI ACCORD ATTACKED AND SOME LEBANESE LEFTISTS
DENOUNCED. END SUMMARY.

2. MAY 20 AL-BAATH CONTAINED FRONT-PAGE OPEN LETTER FROM
ABDULLAH AL-AHMAD, BAATH PARTY REGIONAL COMMAND MEMBER, TO
SECRETARY-GENERAL CPL. IN LETTER, WHICH CARRIED BY FBIS,
AHMAD STRUCK GENERALLY IDEOLOGICAL TONE AS HE TRIED TO DEFEND
SYRIA'S LEFTIST CREDENTIALS ON BASIS OF SUPPORT FOR
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PALESTINIAN CAUSE, NOTING IN PASSING THAT "ROAD TO LIBER-

ATION OF PALESTINE DID NOT PASS THROUGH
BASMAN PALACE, AND WILL NOT PASS THROUGH BAABDA PALACE."
HE DEFENDED SYRIAN STAND AGAINST CONFESSIONALISM,
AND LASHED OUT AT THOSE WHO SLANDER SYRIAN ROLE IN
LEBANON AS BEING DIRECTED AGAINST MUSLIMS AND "PROGRESSIVES."
HE CORNED "REVOLUTION THAT CHANGES ITS OPINIONS IN LIGHT
OF EACH ARMS SHIPMENT" AND PRAISED "REVOLUTIONS THAT
REVISE THEIR PROGRAMS IN LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL
SITUATION." HE OPINED THAT PEACE IN LEBANON WOULD PAVE
WAY FOR REFORMS MORE ADVANCED EVEN THAN LEFTIST REFORM
PROGRAM WITHIN SIX MONTHS, BUT WARNED THAT CONTINUATION OF
WAR WOULD ONLY LEAD TO MORE DESTRUCTION AND HATRED. HE
QUESTIONED WHETHER IMMEDIATE ADOPTION OF LEFTIST PROGRAM
WOULD END PRESENT FIGHTING. HE ASSERTED THAT "FOLLOWING
TREACHEROUS SINAI AGREEMENT, WE STARTED OPPOSING ISRAEL
AND AMERICAN POLICY," AND LATER STATED THAT "HAD WE ACCEPTED
SINAI AGREEMENT, NOT A SINGLE DROP OF BLOOD WOULD HAVE
BEEN SHED IN LEBANON." HE CONCLUDED WITH APPEAL TO DESIST
FROM RAISING FURTHER POLITICAL DEMANDS AND FROM INCREASING
WEAPONS STORES AND MILITARY CAPABILITIES LEST THIS "ERROR
IN PRIORITIES" DESTROY NATIONALIST MOVEMENT AND PALESTINE
RESISTANCE.

3. COMMENT: MAJOR PURPOSE OF AHMAD'S ARTICLE APPEARS TO
HAVE BEEN REMINDER THAT DESPITE PROFESSIONS BY MANY LEBANESE
"PROGRESSIVES", I.E., JUMBLATT, OF THEIR IDEOLOGICAL DIRECTION,
THEIR ACTIVITIES IN LEBANESE CRISIS MAY UNDERMINE PALESTINIAN
CAUSE, WHICH IS TOUCHSTONE OF LEFTIST AIMS AND WHICH SYRIA
HAS ALWAYS SUPPORTED WITHOUT QUESTION. IN HIS ANALYSIS,
SYRIA IS FOLLOWING "REAL" LEFTIST PATH IN LEBANON.
AHMAD'S STATEMENT FIRMS UP SARG PUBLIC PRETENTIONS
TO LEFTIST-ORIENTED POLICY IN LEBANON.
MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, COMMUNISTS, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DAMASC03234
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760201-0130
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760521/aaaaasia.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BAATH PARTY OFFICIAL ADDRESSES OPEN LETTER TO LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY, LE, (AL-AHMAD, ABDULLAH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006